

dwellings; but I can reward thee for his sake, as well as for thine own—what wilt thou?"

"King of Macedon," replied Jaddua, "accustomed as the Jews are to eat the simple fruits of the earth, except at the appointed festivals, their wants are few."

"What then are *they*?" inquired the joyous monarch.

"Once in seven years," the priest answered, "the Jews, according to the law of Moses, do not till their ground, and therefore reap not the golden fruits of the harvest, and yet for that year they pay tribute."

"Henceforth then," rejoined the king, "they shall not! but when Alexander wishes to bestow, those who ask need not soon be silent—the earth that has the former needs the latter rain."

"Let then, gracious monarch," said Jaddua, "one more favour be granted, and the latter rain will have fallen:—it is, that the Jews who live in Babylon and Media, may observe their own laws, which make them differ from all other people."

At the assurance of perfect liberty in these respects, and of its extension to all Jews who might choose to range themselves under the banners of Macedon, the spacious chamber reverberated with shouts of joy—the multitudes without soon caught the tidings—the sackbut, psaltery, and cymbals gave forth their sounds—rapturous acclamations were echoed from hill to hill—and, as the monarch left Jerusalem, flowers were strewed in his path—all the music of the city was tasked to do him honour—thousands on thousands pressed eagerly around his chariot—the very children lisped his name, and the eye followed him until the dense mass of his army, augmented by numbers of the Jews, looked like a dark speck on the horizon, and then disappeared.

TRANSATLANTIC ANTIQUITIES.

"For there is nothing covered that shall not be revealed; neither hid that shall not be known."—Luke xii. 2.

All revelations of truth of whatever nature they be, whether discoveries in art or science, whether the mining operations of the geologist, or the explorations of the antiquary, are welcome to the saint of God. He knows well that he is in possession of principle and truths that cannot be shaken, and whatever discoveries are made, he is conscious that they must all become subservient, and lend their aid to establish the principles of the church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The Book of Mormon, upon which so much ridicule has been thrown by the learned of the day, and which, in the estimation of their judgments is altogether unworthy of notice, will yet appear radiant with the power of divine truth that shall be manifest unto the nations, and it shall occupy no unimportant part in the decisions of the great and final day.

The wisdom of modern divines supposes that if the Lord, verily, in the last days had a prophet on the earth, that he must necessarily be of the class of the learned, the elegant, and the scholastic; and that all writings emanating from such a one, must be faultless in their construction, and irresistibly convincing in their argument, totally forgetful that whomsoever the Lord employs, would act in simplicity and sincerity, and if uneducated, as many of his servants in ages past, he would use the language at his command without affecting that of which he was not capable.

Again, a general opinion obtains, but one certainly most erroneous, which is, that the arguments and persuasions of a prophet would certainly be convincing to all that heard them, and the general impression is, that if holy men as of old were to make their appearance, their reception would be very different in this enlightened and christian age to what it was amongst the wicked people of other days; but not so, there cannot possibly be a greater mistake—the learned, the righteous, and the zealous for religion, would be the first to persecute to the death. The Saints connected with the work of God in the last days have seen this fact fearfully realized.

But with regard to the Book of Mormon, it has come forth bearing testimony of a mighty people who populated the western world; it has given evidence of their wealth, their power, their magnificence, and the splendid cities which they raised

in their pride and greatness; it has given also a history of their fall and terrible destruction, and of the causes thereof, and from the year 1830, when it issued to the world (the sceptical world which denied its authenticity), men have been labouring unconsciously to prove its truth—from the researches of Josiah Priest, issued about three years after its publication, down to the labours of Messrs. Stephens and Catherwood, they have made discoveries of the remains of mighty cities in the very localities where the Book of Mormon had fixed them, and bearing testimony of the mighty convulsions by which they were described as being overthrown.

We, therefore, rejoice much at the prospect of further labours being effected by the combined energy of the French and English savans, and wishing them all possible success, we shall wait the result of their explorations with much interest.

EDITOR.

We are assured that there is now every probability of a successful combination between scientific men in France and England for the purpose of completely exploring the ancient remains of countries which were flourishing in civilization whilst modern Europe was still sunk in comparative darkness:—

“A year ago we mentioned a scientific commission formed here, with the object of preparing for the provinces of Mexico and Central America, an exploring expedition which should extend and complete the discoveries, so wonderful already, of the first expedition. This Transatlantic exploring scheme, which at first was but the yearning of some spirits devoted to science, is now a matter of certain success, after the efforts made during the past year.

“Never, it must be acknowledged, has there existed so great a disposition to form such societies for enterprises of this kind. At the present day archeological expeditions are treated and undertaken in a manner very different from the time when Champollion deciphered the hieroglyphics of Longsor and of Medinet-Abon, and when Volney sat in the Temple of the Sun, in the shade of the columns of Palmyra.

“Persepolis and Babylona have exhausted neither the ardour nor the enthusiasm of *savans* and poets. Egypt has been searched in every corner, but much still remains to be examined in the archeological world. Between Egypt and Persia, on the one side, and Central America on the other, there are regions at present almost deserted, formerly peopled and flourishing, where must be found sumptuous palaces, majestic sculptures, everything, in a word, that constitutes the necessary magnificence of an advanced civilisation.

“What has already been discovered at Palenque, which has been called the Thebes of America, will give an idea of the vacuum that is still to be filled in the history of art. It is this vacuum which it is the object of the exploring commission to fill. It has no other object. It will be carried out by the simultaneous efforts of the French and English *savans*, according to the plan expressed by M. de Chateaubriand in that important work the ‘Mexican Antiquities.’ This Transatlantic exploration, which will excite a lively interest in all enlightened minds, deserves the support necessary for realizing all the hopes that are attached to it by spreading some rays of light over the ancient destinies of the American continent.”—*Journal des Debats*.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM THE ISLAND OF TOOBOUI, SOCIETY GROUP.

September 17th, 1844.

My Dear Wife,—I doubt not but you will say, “now my husband has got the desire of his heart,” when I tell you the six first persons I have adopted into the kingdom by baptism are sailors, and perhaps you will ask, did you hammer the rust off them any? I will answer, could you see them on their knees, and hear their humble petitions, and the sincerity with which they thank the Lord for so ordering events, that I have been so casually thrown on this island, and have been instrumental in his hands of showing them the way of life and salvation, I doubt not but you would say, “there has been a great change wrought some how.”